

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRASIL 02360 242343Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 SP-02 PM-05 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 USIE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /047 W
-----125909 242348Z /73

O R 241945Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6764
INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 2360

EO 11652 GDS
TAGS OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY), BR US
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: BOUTON/GIESE TELCON MARCH 21, 1978

1. IN ACCORDANCE REFERENCE TELCON, POLITICAL COUNSELOR CONVEYED TO SILVEIRA'S SPECIAL ADVISER FOR BILATERAL AFFAIRS SARDENBERG USG VIEW OF SECRETARY'S BILATERAL WITH SILVEIRA, I.E., THAT IT WOULD BE MORE THAN JUST A COURTESY CALL AND DESIGNED TO COMPLEMENT EARLIER CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS.

2. ON MARCH 22, FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN LAMPREIA--NOTING"CONFLICT-ING INFORMATION IN THE PRESS--TOLD REPORTERS THAT PROSPECTIVE MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY AND SILVEIRA HAD BEEN REQUESTED BY US SIDE.

3. ON EVENING OF MARCH23, MINISTER DE MEDICIS, DIPLOMATIC INTRODUCTOR OF FOREIGN MINISTRY, TOLD CHARGE ON BEHALF OF SILVEIRA THAT FOREIGN MINISTER CONSIDERED FOCUS OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT WOULD BE ON MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS AND THAT HE (SILVEIRA) WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO AMPLIFY THOSE DISCUSSIONS ALTHOUGH HE COULD ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS US SIDE MIGHT HAVE ABOUT BRAZILIAN POSITIONS. DE MEDICIS AGREED THAT ADDITONAL TOPICS COULD BE RAISED AT THE SECRETARY'S
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MEETING WITH SILVEIRA.

4. LATER YESTERDAY EVENING, SARDENBERG AT MEETING ON DRAFT PRESS COMMUNIQUE TOLD POLITICAL COUNSELOR THAT SILVEIRA HAD ASKED HIM, BEFORE OPENING DISCUSSION OF COMMUNIQUE, TO STRESS THAT HE (SILVEIRA) CONSIDERED VISIT TO BE AT THE PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL AND THAT HE DID NOT

WANT THERE TO BE AN IMPRESSION (PRESUMABLY WITHIN REGIME AND OTHER CIRCLES) THAT IT WAS GOING BEYOND THAT, AND THUS DETRACT FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL TALKS.

4. EVENING MARCH 23 SILVEIRA ALSO TOLD MEDIA THAT THE US SIDE HAD INDICATED ITS INTEREST THAT HIS MEETING WITH SECRETARY COMPLEMENT PREVIOUS MEETING BETWEEN THE PRESIDENTS. HE SAID THAT HE WAS ENTIRELY AGREEABLE TO CLARIFY ANY MATTER TAKEN UP BY THE TWO PRESIDENTS BUT THAT DURING CHIEF OF STATE VISITS ALL CONVERSATIONS GO ONLY AS FAR AS THE CHIEFS OF STATE WANT THEM TO GO. THUS HE WOULD NOT BE IN A POSITION TO EXPAND ON WHAT THE PRESIDENTS HAD DISCUSSED BUT ONLY TO EXPLAIN.

5. COMMENT: ALL THIS IS QUINTESSENTIAL SILVEIRA. WE DO NOT BELIEVE HE IS LOOKING FOR A WAY OUT OF THE BILATERAL WITH THE SECRETARY-- ON THE CONTRARY, WE BELIEVE HE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO IT. HOWEVER, WE TAKE AT FACE VALUE HIS CONCERN THAT NO ONE (ESPECIALLY WITHIN THE REGIME) BE LEFT WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT HE IS GOING BEYOND WHAT GEISEL WISHES. AS AN AVID CANDIDATE TO SUCCEED HIMSELF IN THE FIGUEIREDO ADMINISTRATION, HE IS KEENLY AWARE OF THE CONSIDERABLE CARE HE MUST TAKE TO PROTECT HIS FLANKS.
JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRASIL02360
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780131-0380
Format: TEL
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780329/aaaaaygm.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e1fa37be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3215001
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
TAGS: OVIP, BR, US, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e1fa37be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014